

# Approved - BBAC Meeting Minutes – 6/19/14

## **MINUTES** of the **BROWN BRIDGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE** **ANNUAL POTLUCK**

Thursday, June 19, 2014

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**Present:** Deni Scrudato, Chair; Nelson Asper, Vice Chair; Gary Howe, City Commissioner; Bob Horstman; Dave Downer; Marge Forgione; Judy Nemitz, Larry Gerschbacher; Jim Tuller, and Paul Maxbauer.

**Absent:** Michael Kreft (Excused)

**Others Present:** Cindy Porter (Nelson Asper), Anna Horstman (Bob); Katelyn Tuller; Steve Largent, Robin Christensen, Tom Vitale, & Marsha Clark, Grand Traverse Conservation District; Nick & Craig Capell, Troop 27, Long Lake Friends Church.

**Call to Order:** After a wonderful potluck and fellowship that was enjoyed by all, Chair Deni Scrudato called the regular meeting to order at 6:18 pm.

### **I. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by Asper; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Forgione to approve the Agenda. Approved unanimously.

### **II. Approval of 03/20/14 Meeting Minutes:**

Motion by Asper; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Forgione to approve the Minutes as presented; Approved unanimously.

### **III. Introductions:**

Everyone went around and introduced themselves including new Conservation District Parkland Specialist Tom Vitale who took over for long time District Parkland Coordinator Ben Purdy who no-longer works for the District.

**IV. Public Comment:** Anna Horstman commented on how great the food was.

### **V. Review of Action Items:**

**Action Item 9-1:** GTCD staff to develop a site plan for the canoe launch area to be ready for implementation in the Spring 2014. 12/3/13 Status: GTCD staff will work on a draft site plan for presentation at the March 2014 meeting. **Status: Done**

**Action Item 9-2:** GTCD staff to contact engineering firms and begin the process of developing cost estimates, engineering plans, and permits for replacement of the Boy Scout Bridge over the Boardman. 12/12/13 Status: GTCD staff contacted a local engineering firm and will obtain cost estimates for plans and bridge abutments.

**Status:** Largent reported being contacted by a City resident who uses the trails at Brown Bridge regularly and would like to help fund installation of the bridges. Largent contacted the new MDNR Natural Rivers person who planned to conduct a site visit within the next week or two. The project must receive Natural River's preliminary approval (final approval will depend on design) before proceeding with engineering and final permitting.

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**Action Item 12-1:** Largent and Purdy to place dates on management plan documents and redistribute to BBAC. **Status: District Staff will finish the Management Plan after the field season.**

## VI. Updates:

**Bottomlands Restoration:** Christensen reported that they were making great progress on invasive species. She added in the last year they have spent approximately \$20,000 on Brown Bridge alone. She said that Phyllis Higman of the Michigan Natural Features Inventory prepared a *Floristic Quality Assessment and Monitoring of Brown Bridge Quiet Area Wetlands*.

**Action Item 6-1:** Christensen to summarize and distribute the MNFI report.

District staff also reported that the East End boardwalk needed repair and that a SEEDS crew will be brought in to assist with that effort as well as installing a new benched trail that traverse the steep slope from the base of the east end steps to the top of the ridge. This benched trail will eventually replace the east end steps and will allow for much safer winter use.

**Additional Large Woody Debris:** Largent reported that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been approved for Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) funding to install additional trees and other habitat wood in the new river section at Brown Bridge. NRCS does not have an approved standard for the installation of wood and that they are currently working with the engineering firm Inter-Fluve to develop such a standard. The goal is to install the wood in the winter to minimize the impact of heavy equipment on the bottomlands.

**East End Footbridge Donation:** See Action Item 9-2 above

**Canoe Drop Off & Lower Parking Area:** Largent reported that the Traverse Area Paddle Club, Trout Unlimited, and Boardman River Clean Sweep assisted with the signage, a porta-john, and trash bin at the new lower drop off and parking area that the Committee approved last fall. River users love it so far.

**Work Bees:** Christensen and Largent reported that work bees were being planned for the next two Saturdays as part of the District's Community Stewardship Series and a Rotary Water Committee outing. Activities will focus on the new bench trail and restoring the river bank below the East Overlook.

## VII. Boy Scout Camping Request:

Nick Capella representing Troop 27 from the Long Lake Friends Church and his Dad, Craig Capella, attended the meeting to request permission to allow 35 scouts and 8 adults to camp in the Lower Parking Area the evening of August 9<sup>th</sup> as part of a 50 mile merit badge where they bike, hike, and paddle 50 miles. District staff will place "Public Notice" signs a week before the event and will close and lock the access gate to the lower area for that evening. **Motion by Asper; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tuller to recommend to the City Manager that the City allow Troop 27 to camp at Brown Bridge the evening of August 9<sup>th</sup>. Approved Unanimously.**

**Action Item 6-2:** District staff to contact the City Manager and proceed accordingly.

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## **VIII. Brown Bridge Trust Fund Ballot Issue:**

Howe distributed a question/answer sheet he prepared regarding the Brown Bridge Trust Fund (BBTF) ballot issue that the City Commission approved to take to the voters this fall. The City will ask voters to approve capping the BBTF at 12 million for a five year period which will generate approximately 1.2 million immediately for a fund to improve City Parks, including Brown Bridge. Principle and interest over the subsequent years will generate an estimated 3.0 million that can be used to improve City parks. Match is required. Discussion ensued with particular focus on the level of match required and whether a 3/5 vote of the public is needed.

Discussion turned to the fact that the City needs to update their 5-year MDNR approved Recreation Plan and that Brown Bridge projects need to be added.

**Action Item 6-3:** District Staff will identify projects for the Recreation Plan and that they will bring back to the BBAC for approval.

## **IX. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

- Brown Bridge Trust Fund Ballet Issue
- Management Plan Update
- Recreation Plan Projects

The BBAC discussed floating the river through Brown Bridge on September 18<sup>th</sup> prior to the Regular meeting.

**Action Item 6-4:** District staff to arrange float trip.

## **X. Public Comment:** None

## **XI. Adjourn: Motion by Gerschbacher; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Horstman; Approved Unanimously. 7:20 pm**

**Next Meeting:** September 18, 2014, 5:15 pm at Brown Bridge.  
Optional float prior to meeting. Meet at 3:00 pm at the pole barn.  
Location of meeting and float weather dependent.

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by S. Largent.